



Louisiana Elite
Advocacy Force
2022-2023
Membership
Application
Informational Packet

Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force



LOUISIANA ELITE ADVOCACY FORCE



ADVOCATE · CHANGE · EMPOWER

LEAF is the Louisiana State Youth Advisory Board

Mission:

Advocate with current and former foster youth to unite voices, and Change policies, laws, and perceptions in order to Empower youth to become leaders and reach their full potential.

*“Nothing About Us Without
Us”*

Contact
Us

la.elite.advocacy.force
@gmail.com
(Send apps here)

DCFS Contact Person:
LaToya Saulsby
LaToya.Saulsby.dcf
@la.gov
Ph. 225-342-3936

FOLLOW
US!

Instagram/Facebook:
Louisiana_Elite_
Advocacy_Force

Membership Requirements:

- ◆ Spent time in the Louisiana foster care system
- ◆ Ages 18-26
- ◆ Displays leadership and advocacy skills

What we do:

- ◆ State-wide advocacy for policy changes
- ◆ Give current and former foster youth a voice
- ◆ Provide a supportive network for peers
- ◆ Partner w/ DCFS stakeholders & impact changes
- ◆ Partner with ILPs to help youth gain life skills

LEAF Engagements / Activities

- ◆ Quarterly Retreats
- ◆ Angel's Gala/Holiday Gatherings
- ◆ Monthly Calls/Panel Discussions
- ◆ Work Days 3x a year/Committee Meetings

VOICE

LEAF-Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force Mini Fact Sheet



1. LEAF was formed in 2019 as a re-designed version of LYLAC. It is the official Louisiana State Advisory Board.
2. LEAF prides itself in enforcing the Mission at the forefront of all work; Advocate with current and former foster youth to unite voices, and Change policies, laws, and perceptions in order to Empower youth to become leaders and reach their full potential.
3. The vision is A world/community where every child has the right to safety, a loving home, permanency and overall well-being in which they can build a successful future.
4. LEAF tagline Utilizing negative experiences to facilitate positive changes for foster youth
5. LEAF's leaders are executive members consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Communications Officer, Parliamentarian, Treasurer, and Peer Mentor. They help in ensuring the daily operations of the board.
6. LEAF members stay connected through monthly meetings (which are virtual right now), quarterly retreats held every three months (different places throughout the state s/a Baton Rouge, etc.) They also check in through workdays where they make plans for how they will continue to advocate and changes they can assist in making
7. LEAF has several community partners but some of the major ones are James Samaritan and The Pelican Center (where they are currently working to improve courtroom practices, increase youth voice in the courtroom, and implement a state-wide legal representation survey for youth and attorneys.
8. LEAF tackles all these tasks by splitting work into 3 main subcommittees—Placement Stability/Media, State Board Structure, and Policy where members meet monthly.
9. LEAF also work to tackle 'hot topic' child welfare issues and needed improvements by speaking on panels, at trainings, and even at conferences throughout the state.
10. LEAF members also present testimony on important child welfare related bills at the state level both in the Senate and House of Representatives at the Louisiana Capitol.
11. One of the most recent accomplishments of LEAF was writing and passing the first ever Foster Youth Bill of rights which was signed into law on June 16th, 2021, and it outlines the rights that ALL youth in foster care should have while in the system.
12. We accept applications about 3 times a year, in Jan., May, Sept., You must be age 18 or older to apply and demonstrate leadership and maturity. Members do receive compensation for their time and work on the board.
13. We hold elections every year in July at our annual summer retreat.



Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force (LEAF)

Membership Application

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

City State ZIP Code

Phone: _____ Email _____

DOB (mm/dd/yyyy): ___/___/___ Gender: _____ Preferred Pronouns: _____

Race: American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Black or African-American
White
Bi-Racial: _____
I do not wish to provide this information

Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino
Not Hispanic or Latino
I do not wish to provide this information

Do you have any disabilities/conditions the board should be made aware of? YES NO

If yes, explain? Or I prefer not to disclose this information

Are you a citizen of the United States? YES NO

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? YES NO
(A felony conviction may not automatically exclude you from consideration)

If yes, explain:

High School: _____ Address: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Did you graduate? YES NO Diploma: _____

College: _____ Address: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Did you graduate? YES NO Degree: _____

Other: _____ Address: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Did you graduate? YES NO Degree: _____

References

Please list three professional references.

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Youth Engagement/Employment History

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Supervisor: _____

Job Title: _____

(If you did not work there and participated, write participant)

Responsibilities: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Reason for Leaving: _____

May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference? YES NO

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Supervisor: _____

Job Title: _____

(If you did not work there and participated, write participant)

Responsibilities: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Reason for Leaving: _____

May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference? YES NO

Company: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Supervisor: _____

Job Title: _____
(If you did not work there and participated, write participant)

Responsibilities: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Reason for Leaving: _____

May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference? YES NO

Skills

Please identify any special skills you may bring to the board:

*I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.
If this application leads to employment, I understand that false or misleading information in my application or interview may result in my release.*
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Get to Know Me Questionnaire

1. What is your full name? _____

2. Do you have a nickname? If so, what is it? _____

3. What are some things you like to eat? Dietary preferences? _____

4. Do you have any pets or children? _____

5. What are some things you like to do for fun? _____

6. What is one of the most positive and important things you want me to know about you?

7. What is your greatest accomplishment for the last year? _____

8. What are two core values that are most important to you and why? _____

9. What are some of your short term and long-term goals? _____

10. "Do you have a safe haven and/or have any positive coping skills when things get challenging in your life or become triggered? _____

11. Do you have any triggers? If so, what are they? _____

12. What are some of your fears in life? _____

13. What are some things that you do not like to do? _____

THE 5-MINUTE PERSONALITY TEST

Now that you've taken the survey, what does it all mean? Each letter (L, O, G, B) stands for a particular personality type. The column with the highest score is your dominant personality type, while the column with the second highest number is your sub-dominant type. While you are a combination of all four personality types, the two types with the highest scores reveal the most accurate picture of your natural inclinations, strengths and weaknesses, and how you will naturally respond in most situations.

The four personality types can be likened to animals to make them easier to understand and remember. Below are complete descriptions of each one.

L = Lions

Lions are leaders. They are usually the bosses at work...or at least they think they are! They are decisive, bottom line folks who are observers, not watchers or listeners. They love to solve problems. They are usually individualists who love to seek new adventures and opportunities.

Lions are very confident and self-reliant. In a group setting, if no one else instantly takes charge, the Lion will. Unfortunately, if they don't learn how to tone down their aggressiveness, their natural dominating traits can cause problems with others. Most entrepreneurs are strong lions, or at least have a lot of lion in them.

Natural Strengths

- Decisive
- Goal-oriented
- Achievement driven
- Gets results
- Independent
- Risk-taker
- Takes charge
- Takes initiative
- Self-starter
- Persistent
- Efficient
- Competitive
- Enjoys challenges, variety and change
- Driven to complete projects quickly and effectively.

Natural Weaknesses

- Impatient
- Blunt
- Poor listener
- Impulsive
- Demanding
- May view projects more important than people
- Can be insensitive to the feelings of others
- May "run over" others who are slower to act or speak
- Fears inactivity, relaxation
- Quickly bored by routine or mechanics

Basic Disposition:	Fast-paced, task oriented
Motivated by:	Results; challenge, action, power, and credit for achievement
Time Management:	Lions focus on NOW instead of distant future. They get a lot more done in a lot less time than their peers. Hate wasting time; and like to <i>get right to the point</i> .
Communication Style:	Great at initiating communication; not good at listening (one way communicator)
Decision Making:	Impulsive; makes quick decisions with goal or end result in mind. Results-focused. Needs very few facts to make a decision.
In Pressure or Tense Situations:	The lion takes <i>command</i> and becomes autocratic.
Greatest Needs:	The lion needs to see results, experience variety, and face new challenges. He needs to solve problems and wants <i>direct</i> answers.
What the Lion Desires:	Freedom, authority, variety, difficult assignments, opportunity for advancement.

Retrieved online from: mrfarshtey.net/Psychology/5minute_personality_test.doc

Originally developed by Smalley and Trent, 1999.

The Two Sides of Love, Gary Smalley and John Trent, 1999, Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, Illinois

O = Otters

Otters are excitable, fun seeking, cheerleader types who love to talk! They're great at motivating others and need to be in an environment where they can talk and have a vote on major decisions. The otters' outgoing nature makes them great *networkers*—they usually know a lot of people who know a lot of people. They can be very loving and encouraging unless under pressure, when they tend to use their verbal skills to attack. They have a strong desire to be liked and enjoy being the center of attention. They are often very attentive to style, clothes, and *flash*. Otters are the life of any party; and most people really enjoy being around them.

Natural Strengths

- Enthusiastic
- Optimistic
- Good Communicator
- Emotional and Passionate
- Motivational and Inspirational
- Outgoing
- Personal
- Dramatic
- Fun-loving

Natural Weaknesses

- Unrealistic
- Not detail-oriented
- Disorganized
- Impulsive
- Listens to *feelings* above *logic*
- Reactive
- Can be too talkative
- Excitable

Basic Disposition:	Fast-paced. People-oriented.
Motivated by:	Recognition and approval of others
Time Management:	Otters focus on the future and have a tendency to rush to the next exciting thing.
Communication Style:	Enthusiastic and stimulating, often one-way; but can inspire and motivate others.
Decision Making:	Intuitive and fast. Makes lots of "right calls" and lots of wrong ones.
In Pressure or Tense Situations:	The otter ATTACKS. Can be more concerned about their popularity than about achieving tangible results.
Greatest Needs:	The otter needs social activities and recognition; activities that are fun, and freedom from details.
What the Otter Desires:	Prestige, friendly relationships, opportunity to help and motivate others, and opportunities to verbally share their ideas.

G = Golden Retrievers

One word describes these people: LOYAL. They're so loyal, in fact, that they can absorb the most emotional pain and punishment in a relationship and still stay committed. They are great listeners, incredibly empathetic and warm encouragers. However, they tend to be such pleasers that they can have great difficulty being assertive in a situation or relationship when it's needed.

Natural Strengths

- Patient
- Easy-going
- Team player
- Stable
- Empathetic
- Compassionate
- Sensitive to feelings of others
- Tremendously loyal
- Puts people above projects
- Dependable
- Reliable
- Supportive
- Agreeable

Natural Weaknesses

- Indecisive
- Over-accommodating
- May sacrifice results for the sake of harmony
- Slow to initiate
- Avoids confrontation even when needed
- Tends to hold grudges and remember hurts inflicted by others
- Fears change

Basic Disposition:	Slow-paced, people-oriented
Motivated by:	Desire for good relationships and appreciation of others.
Time Management:	Golden Retrievers focus on the present and devote lots of time to helping others and building relationships.
Communication Style:	Two-way communicator; great listener and provides empathetic response.
Decision Making:	Makes decisions more slowly, wants input from others, and often yields to the input
In Pressure or Tense Situations:	The Golden Retriever gives in to the opinions, ideas, and wishes of others. Often too tolerant.
Greatest Needs:	The Golden Retriever needs security; gradual change and time to adjust to it; an environment free of conflict.
Desires:	Quality relationships; security; consistent known environment; a relaxed and friendly environment; freedom to work at own pace.

B = Beavers

Beavers have a strong need to do things right and *by the book*. In fact, they are the kind of people who actually read instruction manuals. They are great at providing quality control in an office, and will provide quality control in any situation or field that demands accuracy, such as accounting, engineering, etc. Because rules, consistency and high standards are so important to beavers, they are often frustrated with others who do not share these same characteristics. Their strong need for maintaining high (and oftentimes unrealistic) standards can short-circuit their ability to express warmth in a relationship.

Natural Strengths

- Accurate
- Analytical
- Detail-oriented
- Thoroughness
- Industrious
- Orderly
- Methodical and exhaustive
- High standards
- Intuitive
- Controlled

Natural Weaknesses

- Too hard on self
- Too critical of others
- Perfectionist
- Overly cautious
- Won't make decisions without "all" the facts
- Too picky
- Overly sensitive

Basic Disposition:	Slow-paced, task-oriented
Motivated by:	The desire to be right and maintain quality.
Time Management:	Beavers tend to work slowly to make sure they are accurate.
Communication Style:	Beavers are good listeners, communicate details, and are usually diplomatic.
Decision Making:	Avoids making decisions; needs lots of information before they will make a decision
In Pressure or Tense Situations:	The beaver tries to avoid pressure or tense situations. They can ignore deadlines.
Greatest Needs:	The beaver needs security, gradual change and time to adjust to it.
What the Beaver Desires:	Clearly defined tasks, stability, security, low risk, and tasks that require precision and planning.

Interview Questions

1. Please describe your skills and strengths that make you the best candidate for being a member of this board.
2. What is your understanding of what the youth advisory board does?
3. What area does your passion lie regarding the youth and child welfare?
4. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
5. You should have taken a personality survey when filling out your application, please explain which two personalities are your top ones and what are your strengths and weaknesses?